



11 June 1969

The Honorable J. W. Fulbright
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D C. 20510

My dear Mr. Chairman:

As you requested, I have carefully read the draft speech "Prejudice, Intelligence and the ABM" which you gave me on 9 June. This text appears to be essentially the same as that of a draft which Mr. Carl Marcy sent to us for comment about three weeks ago. At that time my Legislative Counsel, Jack Maury, explained to Mr. Marcy that because this text apparently was based largely on Top Secret information, and because it could reveal to the Soviets sensitive intelligence sources, methods and analyses, we could not agree to its publication.

I therefore feel I have no choice but to reiterate these views to you regarding the text at hand.

I am returning the above-mentioned draft herewith.

Sincerely,

Richard Helms
Richard Helms
Director

Enclosure

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Telephone Call from Mr. Carl Marcy, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Staff, at 1630, 12 June 1969 (re Director's Letter to Senator Fulbright, dated 11 June 1969, explaining why we could not agree to publication of Senator Fulbright's draft speech "Prejudice, Intelligence and the ABM")

Mr. Marcy: First, I just want you to know that we were not trying to go around you--we gave Senator Fulbright a note saying "This draft was shown to Jack Maury for the Agency's reaction. The Agency could see no way of using this material without revealing sources. Jack Maury did not explain how sources would be in danger and I (Marcy) find it difficult to see how the sources would be in danger." I would like to know how the sources would be in danger. You know we are under pressure since that "white paper" came out. There are 40 pages of selective release. Some of the discussion of Secretary Laird was about how the enemy knew it so he guessed he could tell us about it. Can you give me on a line-by-line basis something which will show how this reveals sources? I do not see how anything said in this would reveal these things. We just can't see that--obviously if we said that you said it, that would be one thing. Have your people looked at it from that point of view?

Maury: I haven't myself, but I will be glad to go back and take another look at it. But I'm not the expert in these things.

Marcy: I understand that, will you see what you can do?

Maury: Let me explain that we didn't feel you were trying to end run me by taking it up with the Director--you were just trying to raise the matter to a higher level in a perfectly normal fashion. Mr. Helms is out of the city until Monday and since he is personally interested in this I will raise it with him as soon as I can.

Marcy: It is hard for us to see how the whole thing is rejected because it has a label of Top Secret. If there is some part that is delicate that would be different. Some of the economic analyses

that are referred to in here--you can get an outside group to do that. If it cannot be used--please give us something specific. I guess it went down the line and some guy way down the line said "they are trying to leak a Top Secret document." We are making assertions based on sources that we have. Did you notice the quote by Mr. Dulles about policymakers becoming wedded to the policies they are responsible for and how State and Defense are no exception and how dangerous it is to be prejudiced about these things.

Maury: Yes, I read that with interest and I agree with it. And that is exactly what we are worried about. We are trying not to get involved in either side for these very reasons. And there is another reason--in our business we have spent a lot of time and money developing relations with foreign services and individuals and they would panic if they thought what they were providing us was put in the public purview. No intelligence service could do its work if they got such a reputation. We have got to maintain our credibility and integrity and we can never do this if we get a reputation, rightly or wrongly, for being blabbermouths.

Marcy: But of course there is a blabbermouth but he gives out only part of it. You don't have to comment on that. Some people up here think.....you know what I mean.

Maury: I think I follow you and I hope you understand our problem. Anyhow I'll see what can be done.

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